

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 061417Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONK KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4030

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, BE

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS' VISIT TO PRC

REF: STATE 104039

1. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS NEXT WEEK. TODAY I TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE, WHO ACCOMPANIED TINDEMANS TO CHINA.

2. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT MAO WAS IN POOR HEALTH AND APPEARED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY SPEAKING, PERHAPS BECAUSE ONE SIDE OF HIS FACE WAS PARTIALLY PARALYZED. HIS THREE INTERPRETERS SEEMED TO HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY AGREEING ON WHAT MAO HAD SAID. THE BELGIANS WERE NOT SURE WHETHER THE FRENCH TRANSLATION ACCURATELY REFLECTED WHAT MAO HAD ACTUALLY SAID OR WHAT THE INTERPRETERS THOUGHT HE SHOULD HAVE SAID. VAN ELSLANDE NOTED THAT FILMS OF THE BELGIANS MEETING WITH MAO WERE SHOWN WIDELY IN CHINA IN ORDER, VAN ELSLANDE SPECULATED, TO SHOW THAT MAO WAS HEALTHY.

3. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT CHOU HAD RECEIVED THEM IN A HOSPITAL. VAN ELSLANDE THOUGHT THAT CHOU WAS BEING TREATED FOR A SLOWLY DEVELOPING CANCER. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT CHOU WAS VERY ALERT AND WELL INFORMED. HE APPEARED TO BE THE REAL BOSS OF CHINA.

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4. ON US-CHINESE RELATIONS, CHOU COMPLAINED ABOUT HAVE BEEN MISLED BY THE US ON THE NUMBER OF US TROOPS IN CAMBODIA, SAYING THAT THIS HAD TENDED TO UNDERMINE CHINESE CONFIDENCE IN THE US. CHOU WENT ON TO SAY THAT ONCE THE US WAS OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS COULD BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP SATISFACTORILY. CHOU THOUGHT THAT THE US POSITION ON TAIWAN WAS CRAZY BUT HE DID NOT PRESS THE POINT. HE ALSO DID NOT TREAT THE RECENT POSTPONEMENT OF THE TOUR OF THE CHINESE PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE AS ANYTHING MORE THAN AN IRRITANT.

5. ON KOREA, CHOU FAVORED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. VAN ELSLANDE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CHINESE DID NOT FAVOR AN ADVENTURISTIC POLICY BY NORTH KOREA.

6. BOTH MAO AND CHOU PEDDLED THE STANDARD CHINESE LINE ON THE SOVIET THREAT TO WESTERN EUROPE AND THE NEED FOR STRONG EUROPEAN DEFENSE MEASURES. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT NOTHING NEW SURFACED. FIRESTONE

NOTE BY OC/T: CAPTION CHANGED TO EXDIS PER S/S-O - MS. MATTESON.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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